separating a high level liquid waste tank from the low level liquid waste tank resulting in increase in activity level in the latter. Since the leak was of a minor nature, it had gone unnoticed by the persons involved in the transfer of liquid waste. This was noticed when a sample of the low level liquid waste which was being transferred showed a higher than expected level of radioactivity. As a result, the six personnel who were involved in this transfer operation were inadvertently exposed to higher than the annual dose limit. The safety authorities have investigated the incident according to the procedure, which involves measurement of radiation doses received, establishing the root cause and medical examination of the exposed personnel. The Medical Authorities have certified that all these six personnel are in good health and there were no abnormal findings. There was neither any release of radioactivity to the environment nor any risk of exposure to any member of the public.

(c) Bhaba Atomic Research Centre has well laid out mechanisms to review the safety status of Operating Plants. As per prevailing practice, the facility was immediately shutdown and an independent Technical Committee was set up to investigate the abnormal incident, so that remedial measures could be taken to prevent such recurrence and to disseminate the lessons learnt to other similar facilities. BARC are implementing the recommendations of the Technical Committee.

(d) Yes, Sir. Since these personnel involved are physically fit and are in good health with no adverse symptoms, they are quite capable to continue to work in the Reprocessing Plant. However, as per the prevailing Safety Guidelines followed at BARC, these persons have been assigned jobs in the non-radioactive areas.

(e) In view of the fact that the medical report certifies that the persons involved are in good health, the question of compensation does not arise.

Poor telecom services in Jangla, H.P.

†1186. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that appointment of additional employees, installation of generator and a 512 line exchange in place of 256 line

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

exchange machine have not been completed in Jangla Telephone Exchange situated in Shimla district despite the approval of Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) by when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) whether Government propose to instruct the concerned Assistant Engineer (Telecommunications) to inspect the telephone exchange once in a week so that telecommunication system continue to work smoothly and telephone subscribers get a proper service?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) to (c) One regular mazdoor has been posted at Jangla exchange.

Generator for Jangla Telephone Exchange has been planned during the year 2003-04.

Two units of 256 P C-DOT RAXs are working at Jangla, which shall be converted to 496 lines Access Network RAXs during the current financial year.

(d) Sub Divisional Officer Incharge has been instructed specifically to ensure proper and fault free service to the subscribers of the Jangla Exchange.

Fulfilment of obligation by private operators

1187. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the licence agreement with private operators stipulated that basic telecom service operators were to provide a minimum of 10 per cent of their total commitments as VPTs;

(b) if so, whether the private operators fulfilled their obligations since commencement of their operation;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the details of the loss of amount suffered by Government along with the details of the action taken against the defaulting private operators?